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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****MISSISSIPPI STATE PERSONNEL BOARD APPROVES REDUCTION IN FORCE REQUEST  
FROM WILDLIFE, FISHERIES & PARKS**

**Sept. 16, 2010, JACKSON, Miss.** — The Mississippi State Personnel Board today approved a request from the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks for a reduction in force based on shortage of funds and work and a material change in duties and organization.

The Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks reduction in force affects twenty filled positions and ten vacant positions within George P. Cossar State Park, Central Warehouse, District II, District IV, and District VI.

According to the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks (MDWFP), the agency has sustained a 31% reduction in funding since FY 2008 from its Legislative General Fund Appropriation, as well as an additional 5% cut as part of Governor Barbour's FY 2010 budget reductions and a 6% reduction in Privilege Fees.

As a result, MDWFP stated that it has streamlined its operational costs by reducing expenditures to executive personnel; suspending hiring of non mission-essential personnel; postponing academy classes for Conservation Officer Cadets; revising management practices on Wildlife Management Areas and Lakes; reducing the number of outreach programs to local school districts by the Museum of Natural

Science; and exploring options to discontinue services that are under-utilized.

MDWFP contends that it continues to face budgetary challenges regarding loss of revenue, with George P. Cossar State Park experiencing the largest sustained deficit, necessitating a reduction in force.

“The Mississippi State Personnel Board has determined that the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks has followed the proper policies and procedures for implementing its reduction in force based on shortage of funds and work and a material change in duties and organization,” said Lynn Fitch, Executive Director of the Mississippi State Personnel Board.

The Mississippi State Personnel Board serves more than 30,000 public employees and 140 state agencies, and also houses the Personal Service Contract Review Board and Employee Appeals Board. For more information, please visit <http://www.mspb.ms.gov>.